

Message Text

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72

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ISO-00 NEA-10 CAB-09 CIAE-00 COME-00

DODE-00 EB-11 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 FAA-00 PM-07 H-03

L-03 NSC-10 PA-04 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20 USIA-15 ACDA-19

IO-14 DRC-01 /177 W

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R 051044Z DEC 73

FM AMEMBASSY VALLETTA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5043

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

USMISSION NATO

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E.O. 11652: ADS DECLAS 12:5/74

TAGS: PFOR, MT,LY

SUBJ: MALTESE AIR CONTROLLERS FOR LIBYA

REF: A. VALLETTA 2147 B. VALLETTA 1591

1. ACCORDING TO DEC 5. ENGLISH LANGUAGE DAILY TIMES OF MALTA (INDEPENDENT CONSERVATIVE) ANUMBER OF MALTESE AIR TRAFFIC CONTROLLERS ARE TO BE SECONDED TO THE LIBYAN DEPARTMENT OF CIVIL ABIATION. TIMES STATES: "FOUR TO SIX CONTROLLERS WILL IN FACT TAKE THEIR POSTS AT THE BENGHAZI AND TRIPOLI AIRPORT CENTERS BY TOMORROW. LAST WEEK TWO SENIOR OFFICIALS FROM THE MALTESE DEPARTMENT OF CIVIL AVIATION HAD GONE TO LIBYA TO HOLD DISCUSSIONS ON THIS ARRANGEMENT. IT SI RELIABLY UNDERSTOOD THAT LIBYA HAD MADE AN URGENT REQUEST TO MALTA TO SECOND MALTESE AIR TRAFFIC CONTROLLERS SINCE THE EGYPTIAN AIR TRAFFIC CONTROLLERS WHO HAD BEEN MANNING THE IMPORTANT POSITION AT BOTH THE TRIPOLI AND BENGHAZI AIR TRAFFIC CONTROL CENTERS, HAD EITHER BEEN RECALLED BY THE EGYPTAIN GOVERNMENT OR WERE BEING

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DISMISSED BY THE LIBYAN GOVERNMENT. RELATIONS BETWEEN THE TWO

ARAB STATES HAVE BEEN SHOWING INCREASING STRAINS SINCE THE OCTOBER 14 CEASE FIRE OF THE ARAB-ISRAELI CONFLICT. THE MALTESE CONTROLLERS WILL BE SPENDING A FEW MONTHS AT A TIME IN LIBYA AND, IF THE NEW ARRANGEMENT LASTS, THEY WILL BE RELIEVED BY OTHER CONTROLLERS EVERY THREE OR FOUR MONTHS. THE CONTROLLERS ARE BEING GIVEN ATTRACTIVE SALARIES, ALLOWANCES AND OTHER CONDITIONS, LIBYA IS DUE TO TAKE CONTROL FO ITS AIR SPACE, WHICH HITHERTO WAS CONTROLLED FROM MALTA, AS FROM TOMORROW. WHEN THIS NEW AIR SPACE ARRANGMENT COMES INTO BEING, THE AIR SPACE CONTROLLED BY MALTA WILL SHRINK FROM AND AREA OF ABOUT ONE MILLION SQUARE MILES TO ABOUT 70,00 SQUARE MILES."

2. COMMENT: OTHER REPORTS CIRCULATING LOCALLY HAVE SUGGESTED THAT REPUTED ESDOUS EGYPTAIN TECHNICIANS FROM LIBYA MAY OCCASION REQUEST FOR DETAILING OF MALTESE TECHNICALLY QUALIFIED PEOPLE IN OTHER FIELDS TO LIBYA.GETZ

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